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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,270	07/29/2003	Chen-Hung Hung	BHT-3137-28	4722

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EXAMINER

HUGHES, JAMES P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2881

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,270

Applicant(s)

HUNG, CHEN-HUNG

Examiner

James P. Hughes

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "32" has been used to designate both "a transceiver" and "the assembly tube" (See page 3, lines 6-7; and page 4, lines 8-9 and 20-21). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the reference numerals of "the body (40)" in lines 18 and 20 on page 1 are not found in the drawings. Perhaps, the reference numerals "(40)" should be replaced with – (4) –, which are found in the drawings. Appropriate correction is required.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the reference character "32" has been used to designate both "a transceiver" and "the assembly tube" (See page 3, lines 6-7; and page 4, lines 8-9 and 20-21). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 does not clearly identify what a "high friction resistance" (line 2) of the material for making the sleeve entails.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 does not clearly identify what "high rigidity" or "rigidity" (line 2) of the material for making the sleeve entails.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Katsuyoshi (JP 2001-318267). Applicant admits as prior art an optical fiber connection module comprising a connection tube (4); a sleeve (41) made of ceramic by injection molding that is securely received in the connection tube (4); and an assembly tube (5) joined with the connection tube (4) at a flange; and an optical fiber module (6) securely received in the assembly tube (5) and being coaxial with the sleeve (41). (See page 1, ll. 9-21 and Fig. 2) However, applicant does not admit as prior art that the inner sleeve (41) may be manufactured by an electrocast processes.

Katsuyoshi (JP 2001-318267), hereinafter referred to as Katsuyoshi, teaches an electrocast method of manufacturing an inner sleeve member for a fiber optic device. (See e.g., the Abstract and paragraphs 4-6 of the machine translation) Katsuyoshi teaches that employing an electrocast method resulting in a metallic sleeve (e.g., 1) is desirable over a conventional ceramic sleeve in a fiber optic device because the electrocast method will reduce the cost of optical connectors. (See e.g., Abstract)

As it is well known in the art that inner sleeves in fiber optic devices may be manufactured via electrocasting – such as taught by Katsuyoshi – it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ an electrocast method to manufacture the sleeve of the instant application because, as taught by Katsuyoshi, this would result in a lower cost optical connector.

Katsuyoshi does not explicitly identify the amount of friction, or rigidity, of the resulting electrocast sleeve. However, as it is notoriously well known in the art that ceramics and metals may have high friction resistance and rigidity, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the material for making the sleeve may have a high friction resistance and rigidity, thus yielding an efficient device.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Okamoto (2002/0157955) teaches a production method for forming the inner sleeves of fiber optic connectors employing an electrocast method. (Abstract) Tanaka et al. (6,419,810) teaches a method for manufacturing a fiber optic

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connector employing an electrocast method (Abstract) Muto (5,548,894) teaches a method for manufacturing an optical device component wherein, electrocasting or injecting molding methods may be employed. (Col. 3, ll. 20 – 65)


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James P. Hughes whose telephone number is 571-272-2474. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2477. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James P. Hughes
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2881

JP


JOHN R. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER